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JPW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Toshiro Ishimura, et al. **Examiner:** Luong Trung Nguyen
Serial No: 09/817,926 **Art Unit:** 2612
Filed: March 27, 2001 **Docket:** 14428
For: IMAGE RECORDING APPARATUS **Dated:** January 13, 2005
Conf. No.: 3952

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION

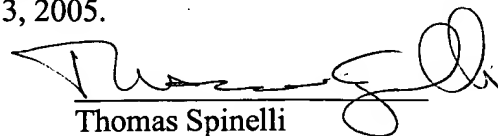
Sir:

Pursuant to the election requirement imposed in the Official Action dated December 14, 2004, Applicants elect the claims of Species I, Figures 1, 2, and 4, readable on Claims 2-6, 9 and 14, 15, 17-20, 22, and 23 for continued prosecution herein along with generic Claims 1, 16, 21, and 24.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

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Dated: January 13, 2005


Thomas Spinelli

Claims 1-24 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to a species election under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention are present in the claims:

Species I, characterized by Figures 1-2, and 4;

Species II, characterized by Figures 5-6;

Species III, characterized by Figure 7;

Species IV, characterized by Figures 8-11C; and

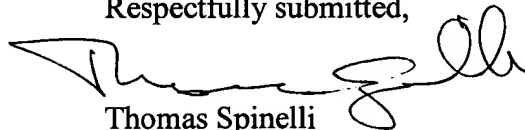
Species V, characterized by Figures 12-14E.

It is the Examiner's position that the species listed as Species I-V are patentably distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for species election, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Species I, which is readable on claims 2-6, 9 and 14, 15, 17-20, 22, and 23, along with generic Claims 1, 16, 21, and 24. However, Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

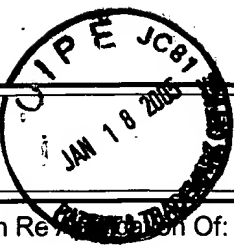
Respectfully submitted,



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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)**

Docket No.
14428

In Re: **Toshiro Ishimura, et al.**

Application No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
09/817,926	March 27, 2001	Luong Trung Nguyen	23389	2612	3952

Title: **IMAGE RECORDING APPARATUS**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION

in the above identified application.

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **19-1013/SSMP** as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

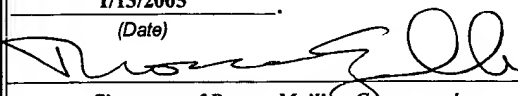
WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.



Signature

**Thomas Spinelli
Registration No.: 39,533**

Dated: **1/13/2005**

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 <i>Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence</i>
Thomas Spinelli <i>Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence</i>

CC: